



### LABOUR FORCE STATUS AND EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AUSTRALIA, FEBRUARY 1984 (PRELIMINARY)

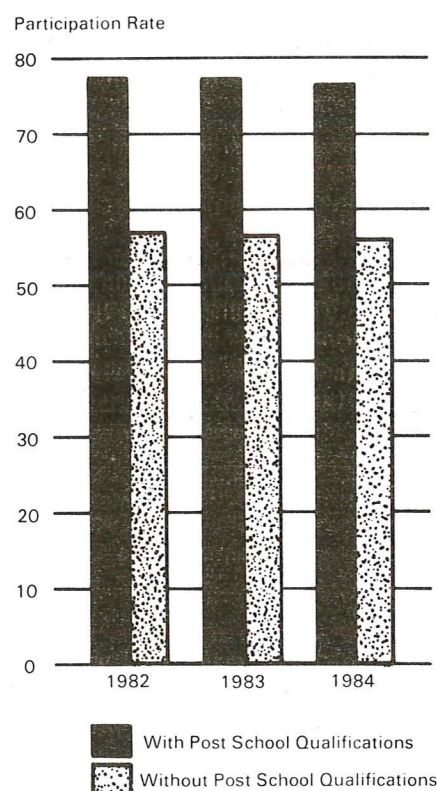
**PHONE INQUIRIES** *for more information about these statistics*—contact Ms Kate Inglis on Canberra (062) 52 6504 or any of our State offices.  
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#### MAIN FEATURES

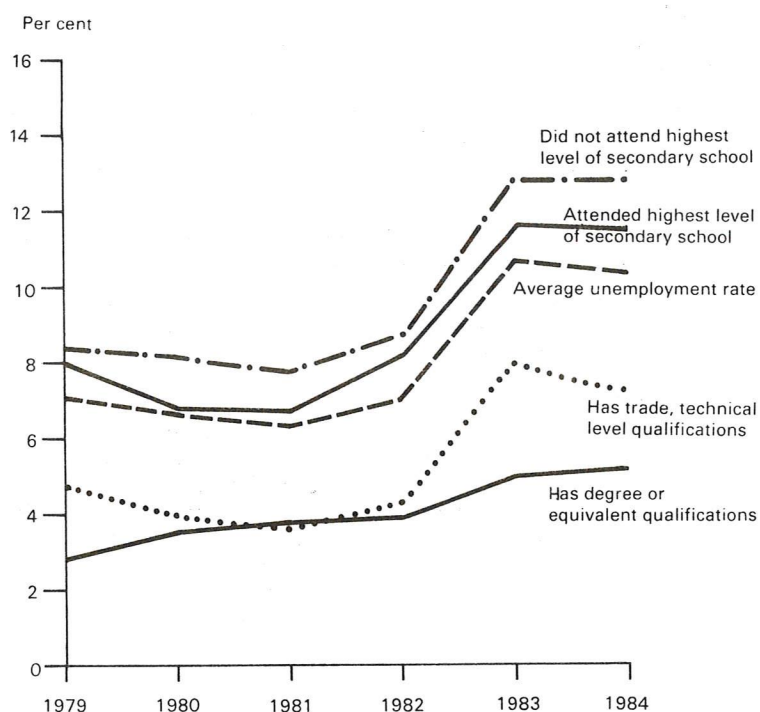
*Note: Survey estimates are subject to sampling variability, as explained in paragraph 15 following.*

**PARTICIPATION RATES, FEBRUARY 1982 TO  
FEBRUARY 1984**



Participation in the labour force varied according to educational attainment—76.4 per cent of persons with post school qualifications were in the labour force compared with 56.2 per cent of persons without post school qualifications.

**UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, FEBRUARY 1979 TO FEBRUARY 1984**



The diagram above illustrates the unemployment rate for persons with different educational qualifications over the period February 1979 to February 1984.

3,007,000 persons in the labour force (42.3 per cent) had a post school qualification. 930,100 persons not in the labour force (21.2 per cent) had a post school qualification. Of these persons, 532,900 (57.3 per cent) were females with trade or technical level qualifications.

The average duration of unemployment for unemployed persons with post school qualifications was 30.9 weeks compared with 48.1 weeks for unemployed persons without post school qualifications.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### Introduction

In association with the February 1984 labour force survey conducted throughout Australia, persons aged fifteen years and over were asked about their highest educational qualifications. For persons with post-school qualifications, the information sought includes field of study, and for those who did not complete their schooling, it includes the age at which they left school.

2. During the two weeks beginning Monday 6 February, 1984, specially trained interviewers asked the questions of a sub-sample of 52,000 of the 72,000 respondents in the February labour force survey.

3. Results of similar surveys, the first conducted in February 1979 have been published in *Labour Force Status and Educational Attainment, Australia* (6235.0).

4. This publication contains only a summary of the results of the survey. Estimates shown are preliminary and may be revised. Further information which will be published as soon as possible is available on request.

### Scope

5. The survey includes all civilians aged fifteen years and over except:

- (a) certain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments, customarily excluded from census and estimated populations;
- (b) overseas residents in Australia;
- (c) dependants of non-Australian defence forces personnel stationed in Australia;
- (d) students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of jails, reformatories etc.

### Definitions

6. Definitions of the principal labour force categories appearing in this publication are given in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0), but it should be noted that there are slight differences in the estimates for labour force categories shown in these publications. This is due to the different sizes of the samples used and the inability to obtain from a small number of persons the additional information required for the educational qualifications survey. Although the estimation procedures take account of these factors, estimates for some characteristics will be affected.

7. *Persons with a post-school qualification* are those who had left school and answer 'Yes' to the question: 'Since leaving school have you obtained a certificate, diploma, degree or any other qualification?'

8. *Classification of post-school qualifications.* Respondents indicate which one of the following groups best describes their highest qualification:

- (a) *Degree or equivalent:* a bachelor degree (including honours), a graduate or post-graduate diploma, masters degree or a doctorate;
- (b) *Trade, technical:* completion of an approved trade/technician apprenticeship or training course, other certificate or diploma in secretarial or business studies, administration, teaching, nursing, etc.;

- (c) *Other:* completion of other post-secondary education e.g. adult education, preparatory/bridging course or hobby course.

9. *Highest level of secondary school available* refers to the highest level of secondary schooling (or equivalent) offered by the education system at the time the respondent left school.

10. *Still at school.* Current school attendance is recorded only for persons aged fifteen to twenty years.

### Population benchmarks

11. Following the change in official population estimates to a place of usual residence basis after the 1981 Census, the population benchmarks used in this survey are compiled according to place of usual residence. For an explanation of the new conceptual basis of population estimates see *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)

12. The change from 1976 Population Census based benchmarks to 1981 Population Census based benchmarks has had little effect on the movement in the estimates between the February 1983 and February 1984 surveys.

### Comparability of the estimates

13. Educational attainment of persons not in the labour force is not available for the February 1979, 1980 and 1981 surveys which only covered persons in the labour force.

14. Estimates in this series are not strictly comparable with those from the population censuses due to differences in questions and coding methodology.

### Reliability of the estimates

15. Estimates in this publication are subject to two sources of error:

- (a) *sampling error:* since the estimates are based on information obtained from occupants of a sample of dwellings they are subject to sampling variability; that is they may differ from the figures that would have been produced if all dwellings had been included in the survey. One measure of the likely difference is given by the *standard error*. More information about this topic will be found in *The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0). A table of estimated standard errors for this survey follows these notes. Estimates with a standard error of more than about 25 per cent have not been shown in this publication, as the degree of sampling variability would seriously detract from their value for most reasonable uses. Although figures for these small components can, in some cases, be derived by subtraction they should not be regarded as reliable.

- (b) *Non-sampling error*: inaccuracies may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents and errors made in the coding and processing of data. These inaccuracies may occur in any enumeration, whether it be a full count or a sample. Every effort is made to reduce the non-sampling error to a minimum by careful design of questionnaires, intensive training and supervision of interviewers and efficient operating procedures.

#### Related publications

16. Other ABS publications which may be of interest include:

*The Labour Force, Australia* (6203.0)—issued monthly

*Transition from Education to Work, Australia, May 1983* (6227.0)

17. Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications, Australia* (1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Publications Advice* (1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. The Catalogue and Publications Advice are available from any ABS office.

#### Symbols and other usages

- \* subject to sampling variability too high for most practical uses. See paragraph 15 above.
- n.e.c. not elsewhere classified
- . . not applicable

18. Because figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of the component items and totals.

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Acting Australian Statistician

#### STANDARD ERRORS OF ESTIMATES

Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates		Size of estimate (Persons)	Approximate standard error of estimates	
	Persons	Per cent of estimate		Persons	Per cent of estimate
4,500	1,100	24.4	200,000	5,900	2.9
6,000	1,300	21.7	500,000	8,250	1.6
10,000	1,650	16.5	1,000,000	10,400	1.0
20,000	2,250	11.3	2,000,000	13,000	0.7
50,000	3,400	6.8	5,000,000	17,050	0.3
100,000	4,500	4.5	10,000,000	20,550	0.2

TABLE 1. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a) : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FEBRUARY 1984

Educational attainment	Number ('000)							Participation rate —per cent—	Unemployment rate
	Employed			Unemployed	In the labour force	Not in the labour force	Total		
	Full-time	Part-time	Total						
MALES									
With post-school qualifications	1,800.8	80.4	1,881.2	118.6	1,999.8	297.4	2,297.2	87.1	5.9
Degree or equivalent	399.6	25.5	425.1	18.9	441.1	49.0	493.1	90.1	4.3
Trade, technical level	1,370.3	54.6	1,424.9	96.7	1,521.6	244.3	1,765.9	86.2	6.4
Other	30.9	*	31.2	*	34.1	*	38.2	89.3	
Without post-school qualifications	1,960.9	120.4	2,081.3	301.6	2,382.9	754.2	3,137.1	76.0	12.7
Attended highest level of secondary school available	418.5	35.8	454.3	60.6	514.9	103.7	618.6	83.2	11.8
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	1,534.6	84.4	1,618.9	238.6	1,857.5	642.0	2,499.5	74.3	12.8
Left at age—									
18 years or over	22.2	*	22.9	4.6	27.6	*	30.9	89.1	16.8
16 or 17 years	493.7	27.9	521.6	84.4	606.0	68.8	674.8	89.8	13.9
14 or 15 years	873.2	44.2	917.5	128.4	1,045.9	408.0	1,453.9	71.9	12.3
13 years or under	145.5	11.4	156.9	21.1	178.0	161.8	339.8	52.4	11.9
Never attended school	7.9	*	8.1	*	10.5	8.5	19.0	55.3	*
Still at school	*	36.0	37.8	15.7	53.5	186.0	239.5	22.3	29.3
Total	3,763.6	236.8	4,000.3	435.8	4,436.2	1,237.5	5,673.7	78.2	9.8
FEMALES									
With post-school qualifications	625.3	293.5	918.8	88.5	1,007.2	632.7	1,640.0	61.4	8.8
Degree or equivalent	138.9	45.5	184.3	14.2	198.5	71.9	270.4	73.4	7.1
Trade, technical level	465.7	238.4	704.1	71.1	775.2	532.9	1,308.1	59.3	9.2
Other	20.6	9.7	30.3	*	33.5	27.9	61.4	54.6	*
Without post-school qualifications	887.0	512.2	1,399.2	198.0	1,597.3	2,350.5	3,947.7	40.5	12.4
Attended highest level of secondary school available	225.0	108.3	333.3	41.4	374.7	281.8	656.5	57.1	11.0
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	658.6	402.9	1,061.5	156.1	1,217.6	2,043.6	3,261.1	37.3	12.8
Left at age—									
18 years or over	11.1	*	14.7	*	16.4	12.8	29.2	56.2	*
16 or 17 years	259.4	112.9	372.2	60.9	433.1	404.7	837.9	51.7	14.1
14 or 15 years	340.3	256.3	596.6	82.8	679.4	1,322.8	2,002.2	33.9	12.2
13 years or under	47.8	30.2	77.9	10.7	88.7	303.2	391.9	22.6	12.1
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	5.0	25.1	30.1	16.6	*
Still at school	*	46.9	47.7	15.4	63.1	164.0	227.0	27.8	24.4
Total	1,513.1	852.6	2,365.7	301.9	2,667.6	3,147.1	5,814.7	45.9	11.3
PERSONS									
With post-school qualifications	2,426.1	373.8	2,799.9	207.1	3,007.0	930.1	3,937.1	76.4	6.9
Degree or equivalent	538.5	70.9	609.5	33.1	642.6	120.9	763.5	84.2	5.2
Trade, technical level	1,836.0	293.0	2,129.0	167.8	2,296.8	777.2	3,074.0	74.7	7.3
Other	51.5	9.9	61.5	6.2	67.6	32.0	99.6	67.9	9.1
Without post-school qualifications	2,847.9	632.6	3,480.5	499.6	3,980.2	3,104.7	7,084.8	56.2	12.6
Attended highest level of secondary school available	643.5	144.1	787.6	102.0	889.6	385.5	1,275.1	69.8	11.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	2,193.1	487.3	2,680.4	394.7	3,075.0	2,685.6	5,760.6	53.4	12.8
Left at age—									
18 years or over	33.3	*	37.3	6.3	44.0	16.1	60.1	73.2	14.3
16 or 17 years	753.0	140.8	893.8	145.3	1,039.2	473.5	1,512.7	68.7	14.0
14 or 15 years	1,213.5	300.5	1,514.0	211.2	1,725.3	1,730.8	3,456.1	49.9	12.2
13 years or under	193.3	41.6	234.9	31.8	266.7	465.1	731.7	36.4	11.9
Never attended school	11.3	*	12.5	*	15.5	33.6	49.1	31.6	*
Still at school	*	82.9	85.5	31.1	116.6	349.9	466.5	25.0	26.6
Total	5,276.6	1,089.4	6,366.0	737.8	7,103.8	4,384.7	11,488.4	61.8	10.4

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.

TABLE 2. CIVILIAN POPULATION AGED 15 AND OVER(a): EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND AGE, FEBRUARY 1984  
( ' 000)

	Age group (years)						
Educational attainment	15-19	20-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55 and over	Total
MALES							
With post-school qualifications	30.4	240.4	658.9	544.7	376.9	445.8	2,297.2
Degree or equivalent	*	41.0	177.5	132.8	62.8	78.9	493.1
Trade, technical level	25.7	195.2	474.0	402.2	307.3	361.6	1,765.9
Other	4.8	*	7.4	9.7	6.8	5.2	38.2
Without post-school qualifications	368.4	416.0	587.9	471.5	423.3	870.0	3,137.1
Attended highest level of secondary school available	102.6	147.9	165.9	80.8	43.9	77.6	618.6
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	265.5	268.0	419.7	388.0	374.8	783.4	2,499.5
Left at age—							
18 years or over	*	6.5	8.0	8.3	*	*	30.9
16 or 17 years	142.2	148.2	166.1	95.3	53.0	69.9	674.8
14 or 15 years	120.3	110.6	226.7	238.3	247.4	510.7	1,453.9
13 years or under	*	*	18.8	46.1	70.9	199.9	339.8
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	4.6	9.0	19.0
Still at school	238.8	*	..	..	..	..	239.5
Total	637.6	657.1	1,246.8	1,016.2	800.2	1,315.8	5,673.7
FEMALES							
With post-school qualifications	65.1	227.4	527.7	378.3	197.4	244.1	1,640.0
Degree or equivalent	*	36.0	119.0	65.4	21.9	27.8	270.4
Trade, technical level	59.6	183.6	392.2	300.9	165.0	206.8	1,308.1
Other	5.2	7.8	16.5	12.0	10.5	9.4	61.4
Without post-school qualifications	330.0	435.1	720.6	665.5	556.5	1,240.0	3,947.7
Attended highest level of secondary school available	114.3	138.0	135.5	85.7	59.7	123.4	656.5
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	215.3	295.7	582.3	576.1	492.1	1,099.6	3,261.1
Left at age—							
18 years or over	*	7.3	8.7	5.0	*	*	29.2
16 or 17 years	116.2	160.5	235.0	134.1	75.0	117.1	837.9
14 or 15 years	95.1	123.4	310.5	378.2	335.2	759.8	2,002.2
13 years or under	*	*	28.1	58.9	79.7	219.5	391.9
Never attended school	*	*	*	*	4.8	17.0	30.1
Still at school	226.6	*	..	..	..	..	227.0
Total	621.7	663.0	1,248.3	1,043.8	753.9	1,484.1	5,814.7
PERSONS							
With post-school qualifications	95.5	467.9	1,186.6	923.0	574.3	689.8	3,937.1
Degree or equivalent	*	77.1	296.5	198.2	84.7	106.7	763.5
Trade, technical level	85.3	378.8	866.1	703.1	472.2	568.5	3,074.0
Other	10.0	12.0	23.9	21.7	17.4	14.6	99.6
Without post-school qualifications	698.4	851.1	1,308.5	1,137.0	979.8	2,110.0	7,084.8
Attended highest level of secondary school available	216.8	285.9	301.4	166.5	103.5	201.0	1,275.1
Did not attend highest level of secondary school available	480.9	563.7	1,002.0	964.2	866.9	1,883.0	5,760.6
Left at age—							
18 years or over	*	13.9	16.7	13.4	5.6	6.2	60.1
16 or 17 years	258.4	308.7	401.1	229.4	128.0	187.0	1,512.7
14 or 15 years	215.4	234.0	537.2	616.4	582.6	1,270.5	3,456.1
13 years or under	*	7.1	47.0	105.0	150.6	419.3	731.7
Never attended school	*	*	5.1	6.3	9.4	26.0	49.1
Still at school	465.4	*	..	..	..	..	466.5
Total	1,259.3	1,320.1	2,495.0	2,060.0	1,554.1	2,799.9	11,488.4

(a) Excludes students boarding at school, some patients in hospitals and sanatoria and inmates of reformatories, jails, etc.



**TABLE 3. EMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND OCCUPATION, FEBRUARY 1984**  
( ' 000 )

Occupation group	With post-school qualifications			Attended highest secondary level	Without post-school qualifications		Total (b)	Total (c)
	Degree or equivalent	Trade, technical level	Total (a)		Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years)			
					16 or over	15 or under		
Professional, technical and related workers	445.4	399.5	846.9	78.2	30.0	27.6	135.8	983.1
Administrative, executive and managerial	48.8	161.5	213.1	65.6	50.1	100.8	216.5	429.6
Clerical	59.1	326.9	405.5	260.6	239.7	237.4	737.8	1,158.0
Sales	13.8	131.6	153.5	93.5	111.5	181.0	386.2	581.7
Farmers, fishermen and forestry workers	8.0	102.8	115.3	49.9	73.4	211.1	336.8	456.2
Miners, quarrymen, etc.	*	11.7	13.0	*	*	13.4	20.6	33.5
Transport and communication	*	76.9	84.4	27.5	49.7	157.6	234.7	320.6
Tradesmen, production-process workers and labourers, n.e.c.	17.4	749.2	779.0	129.7	280.2	574.0	991.8	1,782.3
Service, sport and recreation	12.2	168.8	189.3	79.6	93.0	246.0	420.5	621.0
Total	609.5	2,129.0	2,799.9	787.6	931.5	1,748.9	3,480.5	6,366.0

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 to 20 years still at school.

**TABLE 4. UNEMPLOYED PERSONS : EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT AND DURATION OF CURRENT PERIOD OF UNEMPLOYMENT, FEBRUARY 1984**

Duration of current period of unemployment (weeks)	With post-school qualifications			Without post-school qualifications				
	Degree or equivalent	Trade, technical level	Total (a)	Attended highest secondary level	Did not attend highest level of secondary school and left at age (years)		Total (b)	Total (c)
					16 or over	15 or under		
— ' 000 —								
1 and under 4	5.9	33.0	39.5	13.5	15.7	29.2	58.7	105.3
4 " " 8	6.4	24.7	31.7	14.7	17.3	24.0	56.2	92.9
8 " " 13	7.7	19.9	28.3	21.2	21.0	19.5	61.9	100.0
13 " " 26	*	25.5	31.2	14.9	21.7	31.1	68.0	102.3
26 " " 52	*	22.7	27.6	12.4	21.4	38.7	72.8	103.2
52 and over	5.0	42.0	48.8	25.4	54.6	100.6	182.0	234.0
Total	33.1	167.8	207.1	102.0	151.6	243.0	499.6	737.8
— weeks —								
Average duration	24.9	31.6	30.9	35.6	44.1	55.4	48.1	41.9
Median duration	10.1	15.0	13.1	13.0	26.0	32.1	26.0	19.1

(a) Includes persons with other post-school qualifications. (b) Includes persons who never attended school. (c) Includes persons aged 15 to 20 years still at school.